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Dr. J. Lederberg,
Department of Genetics,
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Dear Dr. Lederberg,

I very much appreciate your friendly note and I am sending by surface mail those reprints which I think will interest you.

May I say that I found your first note with Tatum in Nature the most interesting thing on Biology since I read Beadle's work in neurospora. The possibility of recombination of marker characteristics in influenza viruses occurred to me at the time and was stimulated by Luria's suggestions in regard to bacterial viruses. I am contemplating the use of immune sera in chick embryos to block the entry into the circulation of homologous encephalitis viruses from the allantoic cavity, this might allow the infection of suitable recombinations from mixtures put into the cavity. The only experiments that have yet been completed merely served to indicate that there are going to be some difficulties and it may be a considerable time before we can get seriously to work on the problem.

At present most of our time is taken up with quite a different aspect of influenza virus namely, its power to act as an enzyme with certain mucoids as substrates. It is possible that when we have this story straightened out it will be much easier to use haemagglutinin characteristics of the virus as markers in "genetic" experiments.

I have received a number of your reprints and I hope that you will continue to send any further reprints bearing on problems of micro-organismal genetics.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

F. M. Burnet

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